

# GHOST IN THE SHELL

## MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE

# 2

ISSUE 10 OF 11  
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MASAMUNE SHIROW

GHOST IN THE SHELL  
MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE

# 攻殻機動隊

ISSUE 10 OF 11

STORY AND ART BY  
**MASAMUNE SHIROW**

TRANSLATION BY  
**FREDERIK L. SCHOOT AND TOREN SMITH**

この物語に登場する  
様々な設定や解説や概  
念は全て妄想の産物で  
あり、現実とは無関係  
の娯楽物です。服用を  
誤る事無くお楽しみ頂  
ければ幸いです。  
またデッチ上げやギミ  
ックの「誤用」による  
二次被害には当方責任  
を負いかねます点を御  
了承願います。

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MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE CONTROL PREFERENCES



## WARNING: READ ME FIRST!

Readers may note that certain panels seem to have been inadvertently left unreversed or have incongruous backwards lettering. These were artistic decisions made by Mr. Shirow during the production of the mirror-imaged foreign edition of *Man-Machine Interface*. — Dark Horse Comics and Studio Proteus

The various situations, explanations, and concepts that appear in this book are a product of my wild imagination, a form of entertainment with no connection to reality. Take according to directions, and enjoy. Be advised that the author assumes no responsibility for any collateral damage resulting from improper use of the various constructs, fabrications, and gimmicks in the story.

### APOLOGIES AND CORRECTIONS

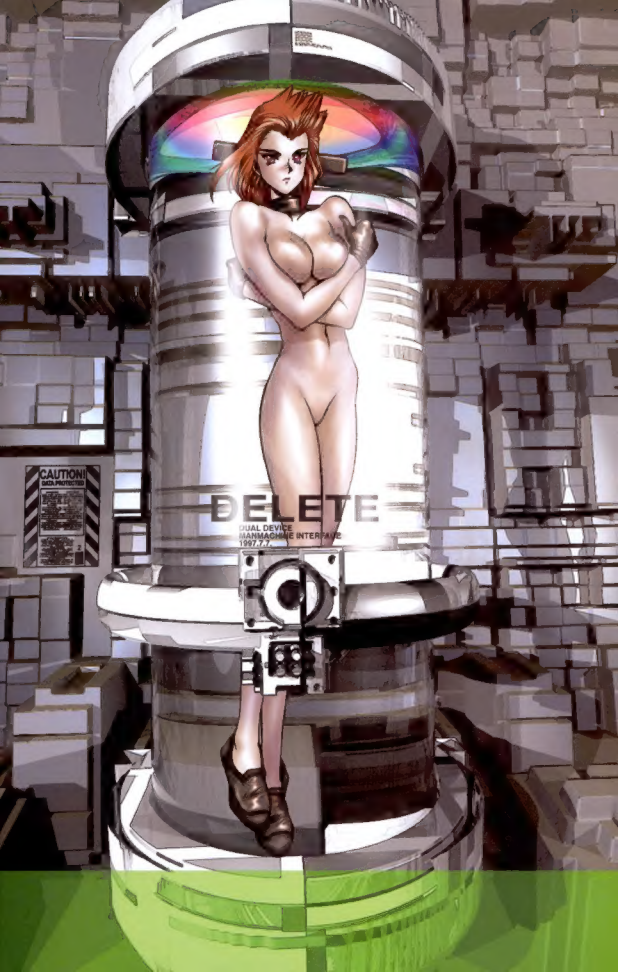
In the *Ghost in the Shell* graphic novel published in 1991, the heroine, Motoko Kusanagi, fused with a self-described "intelligent life-form" and left Section 9 of the Public Security Bureau. This story takes place approximately four years and five months later. As a result, this story is quite different from what was originally called *Ghost in the Shell* and featured Public Security's Section 9 (the Special Assault Force). I thought of visually differentiating the new Japanese title from the old one by merely changing the last kanji character, from one that means "military unit" to the homophonic kanji for "body" or "form" (which would shift the meaning of "mobile force" or "riot squad" to something like "mobile-unit-body-entity"), but for a variety of reasons I decided not to do so. To those readers expecting a direct continuation of the prior storyline, I apologize and beg for your understanding. I'm sorry, folks!

— Masamune Shirow

Send comments to:

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**DELETE**

DUAL DEVICE  
MAN/MACHINE INTERFACE  
1997.7.7.

VERY WELL...

WHEN THE AGENTS UNDER MOTOKO II START DOING THEIR STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS, WE'LL SPLIT UP AND START THE SUPPRESSION.

SHE'S NOT INTERESTED IN FUSION. WE SHOULD ERASE ANY RELATED DATA.

WELL? WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO? DO WE NEED TO CREATE A NEW, EQUIVALENT ENTITY IN ORDER TO DECIDE?

WE CAN SCRAP MOTOKO II...

WHAT YOU PROPOSE IS FINE IF WE'RE JUST WHILING AWAY THE TIME HERE, BUT WE DON'T NEED ANY SPECIAL STRATEGY TO ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF AN EXISTING CONDITION. LET'S SCRAP AND ABSORB MOTOKO II AND THEN DECIDE.

IT'D BE HELPFUL IF HER TENDENCY TO MAKE HURRIED DECISIONS AT TIMES WHEN SHE'S PLAYING FOR HIGH STAKES COULD CHANGE.

IF WE'RE REALLY GOING TO GIVE UP ON THE IDEA OF DOING A BRAIN EXPANSION, THEN WE CAN'T EXPECT ANY MORE FUSION AND GROWTH.

AND IF WE CONTINUE WITH BRAIN EXPANSION, THE PROBLEM IS THAT EVEN IF MORE BRANCHING OF THE "SLEEPING UNIVERSE" OCCURS, IT'LL EVENTUALLY RESULT IN DESTRUCTION THROUGH THAT OLD PHENOMENON OF "HARDENING OF THE ARTERIES".

SO YOU DON'T WANT TO GROW ANYMORE?

THE STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS HAS BEGUN...

?

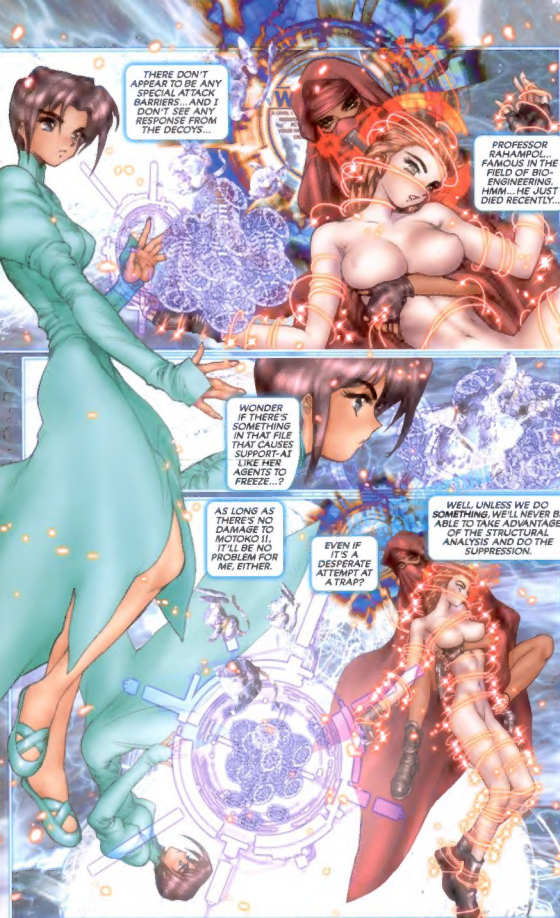
LOOKS LIKE HER AGENTS ARE STUCK AT THE LEVEL 2 PERIPHERAL HARD E-BRAIN...

THEY'RE HAVING DIFFICULTIES WITH A SMALL FILE NAMED "PROFESSOR RAHAMPOL."

I WONDER IF THIS IS A TRAP THAT'D WORK ON OUR FRIENDS, TOO...

WHY HURRY ONLY TO DIE OF OLD AGE?

I'VE HEARD THAT NAME SOMEWHERE BEFORE... I'LL CHECK IT BEFORE WE MAKE CONTACT.



THERE DON'T  
APPEAR TO BE ANY  
SPECIAL ATTACK  
BARRIERS...AND I  
DON'T SEE ANY  
RESPONSE FROM  
THE DECOYS...

PROFESSOR  
KAKAMICHI  
FAMOUS IN THE  
FIELD OF BIO-  
ENGINEERING  
HMM...HE JUST  
DIED RECENTLY...

WONDER  
IF THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
IN THAT FILE  
THAT CAUSES  
SUPPORT AGENTS  
TO FREEZE...?

AS LONG AS  
THERE'S NO  
DAMAGE TO  
MOTOKO II,  
IT'LL BE NO  
PROBLEM FOR  
ME, EITHER.

EVEN IF  
IT'S A  
DESPERATE  
ATTEMPT AT  
A TRAP?

WELL, UNLESS WE DO  
SOMETHING WE'LL NEVER BE  
ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE  
OF THE STRUCTURAL  
ANALYSIS AND DO THE  
SUPPRESSION.



NO...  
LOOKS LIKE  
A SYSTEM  
BLUEPRINT.

YOU  
THINK  
THAT  
WOULD  
CAUSE  
AN AI  
LOCKUP?

?? IS  
THIS SOME  
KIND OF A  
PHILOSOPHY  
TEXT FOR  
ALIENS?

LEVEL OF GHOSTLINE  
CAUTION!

THINK WE  
SHOULD  
TRY  
ACTIVATING  
VIRTUALLY?

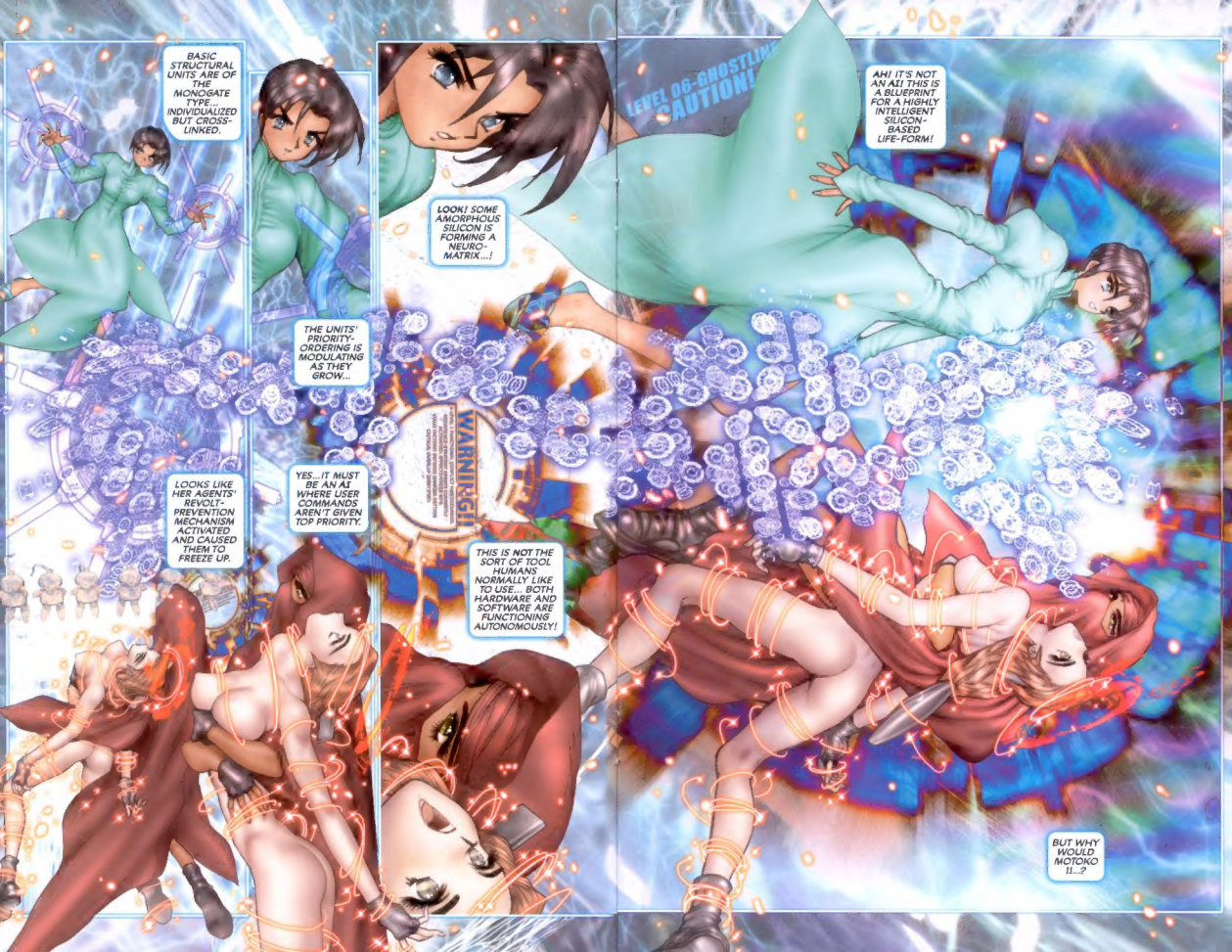
I'M  
GOING TO  
ANALYZE  
IT.

MAYBE  
THAT'S  
WHAT THE  
AGENTS  
DID...

NOW  
WHAT...?!

IT'S  
GROWING.

LOOKS  
LIKE A  
TYPE  
OF AI.



BASIC  
STRUCTURAL  
UNITS ARE OF  
THE  
MONOGATE  
TYPE  
INDIVIDUALIZED  
BUT CROSS-  
LINKED.

LOOK! SOME  
AMORPHOUS  
SILICON IS  
FORMING A  
NEURO-  
MATRIX...!

THE UNITS'  
PRIORITY  
ORDERINGS IS  
MODULATING  
AS THEY  
GROW...

LOOKS LIKE  
HER AGENTS'  
REVOLT-  
PREVENTION  
MECHANISM  
ACTIVATED  
AND CAUSED  
THEM TO  
FREEZE UP.

YES...IT MUST  
BE AN AI  
WHERE USER  
COMMANDS  
AREN'T GIVEN  
TOP PRIORITY.

THIS IS NOT THE  
SORT OF TOOL  
HUMANS  
NORMALLY LIKE  
TO USE... BOTH  
HARDWARE AND  
SOFTWARE ARE  
FUNCTIONING  
AUTONOMOUSLY!

LEVEL 06-GHOSTLINE  
CAUTION!

AH! IT'S NOT  
AN AI! THIS IS  
A BLUEPRINT  
FOR A HIGHLY  
INTELLIGENT  
SILICON-  
BASED  
LIFE-FORM!

BUT WHY  
WOULD  
MOTOKO  
II...?



TAMAKI!...?

YOU  
ARE IN  
ME, AND  
I AM IN  
YOU...



YOU  
CHOOSE  
THE  
REFLECTION  
IN THE  
MIRROR...

...BECAUSE THE  
UNIVERSE IS  
ASYMMETRICAL.



ARE WE  
IMPRISONED...?

IMPRISONED...?  
WHICH OF "US" ...?



I CAN'T  
LOCATE THE  
"NORTH  
STARS" ...

THEY'RE  
OVER  
HERE.



THEY'VE  
BEEN HERE  
FROM THE  
BEGINNING

HERE'S THE  
HORIZON POINT  
YOU THOUGHT  
YOU WANTED  
TO ACCESS...



NO, NOT  
THAT... I'M  
TALKING  
ABOUT THAT  
GIANT THING,  
ALWAYS  
GLOWING OFF  
IN THE  
DISTANCE!

THIS  
IS IT



IF YOU  
CONTACT  
ONE LIGHT,  
YOU'LL  
PERCEIVE  
A NEW  
HORIZON.

IF YOU CONTACT  
ALL THREE LIGHTS,  
YOU'LL CONTINUE  
ON TO SOMEONE  
ON THE BORDER...



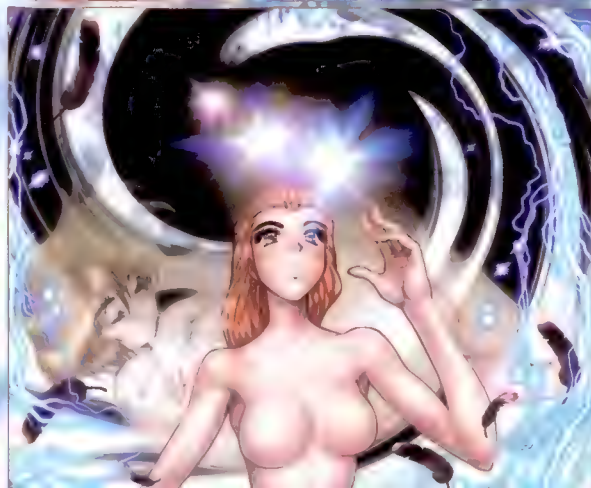
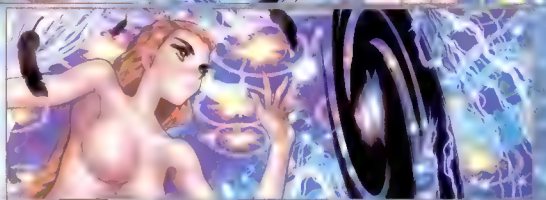
IS THIS SOME  
SORT OF  
PARADOXICAL  
"RIDDLE OF THE  
SPHINX"? OR ARE  
YOU JUST TESTING  
THE DEPTHS OF  
MY DESIRE?

NO, I'M ONLY  
PROVIDING  
THE DATA...  
YOU'RE THE  
ONE WHO HAS  
TO CHOOSE  
YOUR COURSE.



FOR WHAT  
PURPOSE,  
THOUGH?  
AND WHAT'S  
THIS ALL  
MEAN?

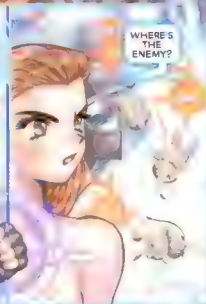
AN ANSWER  
WILL ONLY  
BE REVEALED  
TO THE ONE  
WHO SEEKS  
IT... YES?





MAX! REMEMBER  
THE FUNCTIONAL  
CONFLICT THAT  
OCCURRED WHEN  
WE BUILT THAT  
ROUTE VIA LEBRI'S  
LN2 TERMINAL?

MAX...?  
?!



WHERE'S  
THE  
ENEMY?



THE WORD  
"ENEMY"  
IS NOT  
APPROPRIATE  
HERE.

YOU'RE  
THE ONE  
WHO  
FROZE  
YOUR  
AGENTS,  
NO. 11!

BECAUSE YOU  
BROUGHT SOMETHING  
INTERESTING HERE,  
THE DECISION-  
MATRIX HAS CEASED  
BRANCHING.



BUT WHAT WAS YOUR  
BUSINESS? PAYMENT  
FOR THE PISST?  
COMBAT SUPPRESSION  
ACTIVITIES? OR JUST  
CURIOSITY? I DON'T  
THINK YOU WERE  
INTERESTED IN  
FUSION...




IT'S MY  
JOB YOU  
KNOW  
THAT.

WHAT IF  
YOU JUST  
SAID YOU  
NEVER SAW  
ANYTHING?

AHH... OF  
ALL POSSIBLE  
ANSWERS, YOU  
WOULD HAVE  
TO CHOOSE  
ONE OF THE  
LEAST  
INTERESTING

BUT I'LL GO  
ALONG WITH IT.  
SO... YOU'VE  
FULFILLED YOUR  
OBJECTIVE, RIGHT?  
WHAT OTHER  
BUSINESS DO YOU  
HAVE? IF NONE,  
GET OUT OF  
HERE... I'M BUSY



YOU DON'T SERIOUSLY THINK I'LL FALL FOR THAT BLUFF. DO YOU? EVEN IF THE MAIN BARRIERS AND ARMED ARRAYS ARE THE SAME AND INEFFECTIVE...

I'M THE ONE WHO'S CLOSEST TO THE HUBBLE MIRROR CONTROLS.

TOO BAD, SINCE IT'S PHYSICALLY SO CLOSE TO ME VERY WELL-- WHAT DO YOU WANT?

INFORMATION! I WANT TO KNOW IF YOUR PROBLEM IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME IN THE FUTURE

.. AND WHAT IS THIS "SOMETHING INTERESTING" YOU MENTIONED?

YOU PLAN TO FUSE WITH THEM?

WHAT ABOUT YOU?


THE BLUEPRINT FOR A SILICON LIFE-FORM. I WANT TO PUT TOGETHER ONE OF THESE MYSELF.

MEMES CAN ENDURE THE FOUR BUDDHIST SUFFERINGS OF BEING BORN, AGING, FALLING ILL, AND DYING, BUT THEY'RE ALSO A NEW LIFE-FORM, WITH CONTINUITY




IF THE LIFE-FORM'S INTELLIGENCE IS BASED ON THE MANKIND'S MEME POOL, IT'S LIKE MANKIND IN A MIRROR

DON'T WE NEED SOME INSURANCE?



YOU'RE AWFULLY PESSIMISTIC, AREN'T YOU? THERE'S ACTUALLY NO NEED. IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THE TWO COEXIST OR NOT AS LONG AS THEY DON'T SELF-DESTRUCT.



YOU MEAN THAT AS LONG AS THEY'RE CONNECTED, THAT'S A GUARANTEE? MANKIND AND MANKIND'S ACTIVITIES MIGHT NOT ALWAYS BE PERCEIVED BY IT IN A POSITIVE LIGHT, YOU KNOW.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR OVER-PROTECTIVE OPINION WHICH IS OBVIOUSLY SLANTED IN FAVOR OF MANKIND.



BUT IT'S NOT THE CASE. MANKIND AND THIS LIFE-FORM ARE BOTH SEPARATE AND THE SAME



IF IT FUSES WITH YOU AND LEARNS OF THE "TREE," RIGHT?

BUT THERE'S NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THAT AND ANY GUARANTEE OF SECURITY.

NO, YOU'RE WRONG

THE KNOWN UNIVERSE CAN BE INSTANTLY EXPANDED. SURELY, YOU MUST REALIZE THE ADVANTAGES OF THAT.?



VERY  
WELL,  
LET'S SET  
UP A  
HOTLINE  
BETWEEN  
US,  
THEN.

AND LET'S  
HANDLE THE  
LIFE-FORM  
TOGETHER.

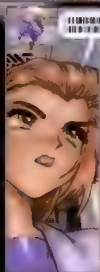
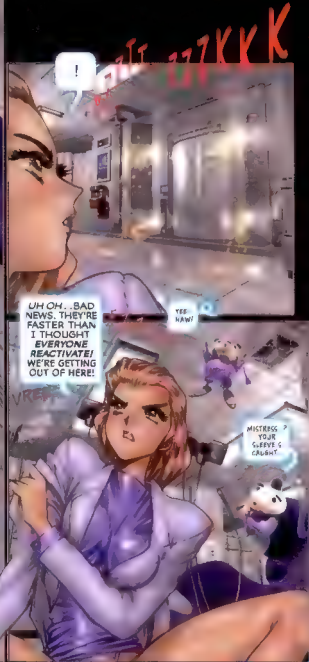
SO,  
WE'VE  
FINALLY  
GOT A  
DEAL.

I DON'T  
HAVE ANY  
PROBLEM  
WITH  
THAT.

I'VE GOT  
SOME OTHER  
BUSINESS TO  
TAKE CARE  
OF... I'LL  
CONTACT  
YOU LATER.

YOU DON'T  
NEED TO BE SO  
VAGUE - BACK  
IN "REALITY" THE  
ASSAULT FORCES  
ARE ABOUT TO  
BURN RIGHT  
THROUGH THE  
DOOR, YES?

SEE  
YOU





ACTIVATE  
ACTION-  
RESTRAINT  
VIRUS FOR  
THE POWERED  
SUITS!

YAY CHAN

SYSTEM MAIN UNIT  
79-000 073 112



I'VE NEVER  
USED THIS  
TRICK  
BEFORE...  
IT SURE  
MAKES A LOT  
OF NOISE.





WHAT'S  
THAT  
SMOKE?



HALON GAS. IT'S  
SCREWING UP  
OUR IR SENSORS  
BECAUSE IT HAS  
HIGH HEAT  
ABSORPTION



IS ONE OF  
OUR OWN  
PRODUCTS  
TOO.



ALL STAFF ARE  
COLLAPSED ON  
THE FLOOR  
INSIDE... DOING  
A CHECK RIGHT  
NOW... VISUAL  
FIELD LOOKS  
CLEAR



OKAY  
GO!





UNIT C  
ALL  
CLEAR!

THERMAL  
RESPONSE  
FROM PANELS  
IN EIGHT  
PLACES!

UNIT G  
ALL  
CLEAR!

UNIT K  
ALL  
CLEAR!

CHECK  
THE  
COOLING  
DUCTS!

LOOK FOR  
ANY TRACES  
OF DUST  
LAYERS  
HAVING BEEN  
DISTURBED!

THERE'S GOTTA  
BE SOMETHING!  
SEARCH THE  
PLACE WITH A  
FINE-TOOTH  
COMB, AND WATCH  
FOR OPTICAL  
CAMOUFLAGE!

!





SIR! THIS  
OVERTURNED  
CHAIR HAS NO  
ASSOCIATED  
STAFF MEMBER  
NEAR IT!

I'M GETTING A  
THERMAL RESPONSE  
FROM THE PANEL IN  
FRONT OF IT, BUT  
THERE'S NO RECORD  
OF THE PANEL  
BEING ACCESSED!

THERE'S ALSO A  
DOCUMENT WITH  
A FOOTPRINT ON  
IT. WE'RE TRYING  
TO IDENTIFY THE  
SHOE TYPE.

WILL!  
OPEN  
THIS DUCT  
HERE!

YES,  
SIR!



SENSORS  
DETECT  
NO  
RESPONSE  
OF ANY  
TYPE, SIR

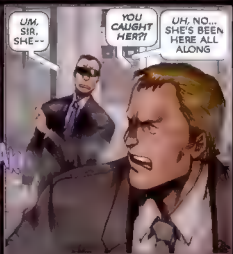
ORDER UP  
A FULL  
SUITE OF  
SEARCH  
CEBOTS  
AND SEND  
THEM IN AS  
SOON AS  
POSSIBLE!



UM,  
SIR,  
SHE--

YOU  
CAUGHT  
HER?!

UH, NO...  
SHE'S BEEN  
HERE ALL  
ALONG





TRYING TO  
PREVENT  
ME FROM  
LEAVING,  
ARE YOU?  
SAY IT  
AIN'T SO!

SORRY,  
MISS.  
PRESIDENT'S  
ORDERS.



I'M ASSUMING  
YOU'LL BE ABLE  
PROVIDE US WITH  
A MEANINGFUL  
REPORT ON THIS

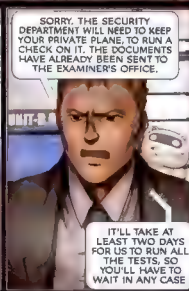


SHMPH...  
YOU SEEM A  
LITTLE TICKED  
OFF, MR. LEE.  
ANYWAY, DON'T  
WORRY, I'LL GIVE  
YOU ONE LATER  
BUT YOU WON'T BE  
ABLE TO READ VERY MANY  
SECTIONS OF IT

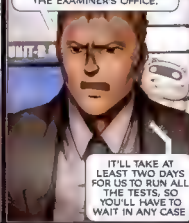


NOW...IF  
YOU'VE RUN  
OUT OF  
DELAYING  
TACTICS, I  
THINK I'LL  
TAKE MY  
VACATION.

BUT IF  
YOU'RE GOING  
TO HAVE ME  
MONITORED  
AROUND THE  
CLOCK, I'LL  
DELAY MY  
DEPARTURE  
FOR TWENTY  
MINUTES SO  
YOU CAN PACK  
YOUR STUFF



SORRY, THE SECURITY  
DEPARTMENT WILL NEED TO KEEP  
YOUR PRIVATE PLANE, TO RUN A  
CHECK ON IT. THE DOCUMENTS  
HAVE ALREADY BEEN SENT TO  
THE EXAMINER'S OFFICE.



IT'LL TAKE AT  
LEAST TWO DAYS  
FOR US TO RUN ALL  
THE TESTS, SO  
YOU'LL HAVE TO  
WAIT IN ANY CASE



YOU LOOK  
SURPRISED, GOT  
A PROBLEM  
WITH IT?

NO...NO  
PROBLEM AT  
ALL! HEH HEH..  
I KNOW THAT  
TO BE TRUSTED,  
INTERNAL  
SECURITY'S GOTTA  
ACT TOUGH!



BUT EITHER  
WAY, I'M  
HEADED FOR  
OUTER SPACE--  
SO BE  
PREPARED!

She's interfering with wind speed data to delay departure. →

"SPACE"...? YOU MEAN THAT SPACE? NOT E-BRAIN OR EPISTEMOLOGICAL SPACE?

YEP. THERE'S STILL A SEAT ON THE CARGO SHUTTLE.

IT'S LEAVING IN NINETEEN MINUTES!

THE CHIEF SECRETARY'S USING MY PLANE NOW, BUT I WOULD CERTAINLY APPRECIATE IT IF THE SECURITY DEPARTMENT TOOK IT BACK TO THE COMPANY HANGARS AND DID A FULL CHECK-UP ON THE COMPANY DIME.

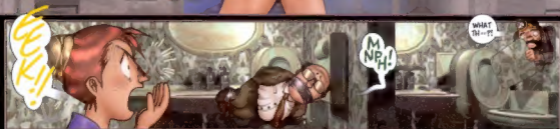
MY STAFF WILL BE GLAD TO USE UP ANY MONEY SAVED ON THEIR XMAS PARTY.

YOU LOOK SURPRISED. GOT A PROBLEM WITH IT?

HUH...TAKING A VACATION IN SPACE SOUNDS AWFULLY BORING TO ME...NOTHING TO DO BUT STARE AT EARTH, RIGHT?

WELL, I'M OFF TO SEE THE FUTURE BEFORE YOU GUYS....

IT'S SURE TO BE LOADS OF FUN! ♡

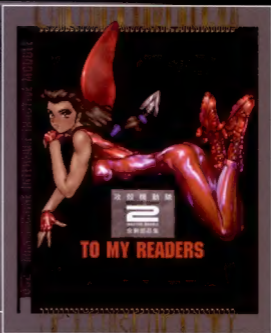


TO BE CONTINUED...

## INTERCHANGE

As we featured last issue, included here are alternate versions of some of Masamune Shirow's awe-inspiring illustrations for *Man-Machine Interface*.

On this page, the inset is the cover image from *MANMACHINE INTERFACE INACTIVE MODULE*, a special booklet that was included with the limited-edition Solid Box set (released by Kodansha in December 2000). Alongside the finished image is a series of costume (and hair color) variants.



Another costume-color treatment, featuring this issue's front cover image.



